

## NEW ENGINE FOR TU 204CM AIRCRAFT

BY KIRILL LEBEDEV, IFS SENIOR ANALYST, DECEMBER 24, 2009

Russian civil aviation industry will soon announce the launch of the Tu-204CM aircraft as well as unveil a gas turbine engine, PS-90A2, designed for this aircraft.

Perm Motors has successfully completed the engine tests and is starting the certification procedure. Then technical specs will be submitted to the Aircraft Register. After that PS-90A2 will be ready for commercial use.

Fast and successful completion of these procedures is of paramount importance for the Russian aviation.

It's been a long time since a full-fledged testing like this was carried out. The previous model, PS-90A, was heavily criticized following a series of emergency landings made by Tu-204 airliners powered by this engine. Frequent engine breakdowns might push the demand for Russian aircraft down to zero. Hopefully, the PS-90A2 will have the previous model's advantages and be free from its faults.

The Tupolev company is certifying a new modification of Tu-204 – Tu-204CM to be powered by the PS-90A2. Any delays in certifying the engine will hamper the Tu-204CM project, which is inauspicious for both the producer and the whole industry.

The engine complies with the airworthiness standards AP-33(Russia), FAR-33 (USA) and CS-E (Europe), and, because they meet the noise requirements, new Russian airliners including Tu-204CM cannot be prohibited in EU countries.

It seems that Russian industries start to use western standards: manufacturers equip new aircraft, car and ship models with new engines, which makes their products more competitive. With Russian air carriers' fleets aging and lease companies promoting Russian airliners, the Tu-204CM model with a new engine is likely to be welcomed by potential buyers. Along with a brand new engine, the aircraft will get updated onboard electronics and a cockpit adopted for English-speaking users.

A contract between Perm Motors and Ilyushin Finance for the delivery of 14 PS-90A2 units is, most likely, the first one in a series of contracts.